

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT

LUND *BL*

THOMPSON *AT*

TAYLOR (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....April 20, 2006

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Betty Lund and Commissioner Alan Thompson

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

The Board met to award the engineering services contract for airport projects. No recommendation was received by the Airport Advisory Board for this meeting. Commissioner Lund made a motion to table this award until May 4th, at which time the recommendation will be made by the Airport Advisory Board. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to have the Chairman sign the reimbursement request form to the F.A.A. for reimbursement of snow plow equipment. Commissioner Lund seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

In other business the Board met with Vicki Dawson of the Humane Society Association and other Board Members of the Association. Discussion was in regard to a proposal they have worked on in regard to the care of animals. Also present at this meeting was Sheriff Chris Hoffman, Under Sheriff Kevin McConnell and Lt. Joe Birkeneder.

Vicki relayed between the years 2004-2005, the number of animals in the Hamilton Shelter increased by 21%. The shelter is celebrating their 25th birthday this year. This Humane Society started by volunteers. The count for 2005 took in 1911 animals. Of that number, 51% were strays. This is a significant number and an increased number of abandonments over recent years. Vicki stated strays and abandonments are counted the same. The number of officers bringing in animals has also doubled. They had several impoundments due to bites.

Vicki stated she visited with shelters in this area (Great Falls, Bozeman and Helena). These are non-profit privately run humane societies. They also contract with jurisdictions to handle their animals. Missoula has an animal control office, with a facility that is 5 years old. This facility costs \$700,000 with an operating budget of \$500,000.00 per year. Most of these costs are related to labor.

For the past few months they have been working with a consultant in regard to long-range planning. They hope to relieve some of the work that is done by the Sheriff's Office. The 9-1-1 Center and the Humane Society receive daily calls for animals. Some of the dogs running at large are referred to the Sheriff's Office. They are seeing more trends of the dangers in not responding to the animal calls. Vicki stated they have concern over the lack of safety equipment the deputies have when they respond to the vicious dogs.

Vicki stated it is important when an ordinance is completed, the Humane Society Association Board be involved since they are working with these issues on a daily basis. Vicki presented a five-year animal control budget projection, which would include an increase in the county funding and an ability to borrow money from the county with repayment being made by the revenues they generate. She feels at the end of five years, the program could be self-sufficient. This budget would provide for the existing shelter to be retrofitted to handle the increased number of impoundments.

Peg Platt of the Animal Control Advisory Board and other board members were also present. They noted they had not received these budget projections until last week and their whole board has not reviewed this.

There was some discussion of utilizing animal control officers instead of sworn deputies and the cost savings. It was noted the \$23,500.00 loan from the county in the first year would be utilized for training, equipment, stipends facility upgrade, facility upgrade, ordinance awareness and added caseload. With that money, plus \$10,000.00 in licenses, and a county increase in funding of \$4,500.00, they hope to obtain a total of \$38,000.00.

Commissioner Thompson expressed concern over the increased cost to the county and the costs of that increase at the end of five years or ten years.

Vicki stated new owners must buy an identification tag before the dog is adopted. This is an education program for the dog owners and allows them to track the lost and found dogs. Their new software is 'revving' up for the proposed ordinance.

Peg stated this proposed plan has some flaws and they want to review it more. They feel there are grants available instead of utilizing the county money. Peg stated she would like this to be reviewed by the entire Animal Control Board prior to putting the ordinance in place.

Commissioner Thompson asked if they visited any counties similar to Ravalli County. Vicki stated Lake County has a dedicated animal control with several officers. However, she could not find any counties that are the same size as ours to fit the model they are looking at.

Sue McCormack stated they all agree that the important issue is to take care of the animals and they appreciate the work the Animal Control Board has done on the ordinance. They hope the ordinance is passed.

In other business the Board held a public auction on a 1992 Dodge 350 Pickup Truck with a pump system, water tank and transfer pumps. The appraisal price has been set as \$14,000.00 with the minimum bid at 90% according to statute. Commissioner Chilcott opened the public auction with a minimum bid of \$12,601.00. Bidder Daniel Dunagan was present with a bid of \$12,601.00. No one else was present for the bidding. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to sell the pickup to Daniel Dunagan for the amount of \$12,601.00. Commissioner Lund seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

In other business the Board met with Larry Russell and Dixie Dies of the Forest Service in regard to the upcoming prescribed burns and fire season.

The Board met with Daly-Leach Memorial Chapel in regard to the Indigent Burial Contract. It was noted Whitesett and Dowling Funeral Chapel owners were invited but did not attend this meeting. After a review, it was agreed to continue with the same costs for the next three years. Commissioner Lund made a motion to enter into another three-year contract with Daly-Leach, Dowling and Whitesitt Funeral Homes with the same terms and prices as the previous years' contract. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

In other business the Board met with Paul O'Bagy in regard to hangar lease # 508. Also present at this meeting was Civil Counsel James McCubbin and Airport Manager Red Caldwell.

Paul presented a graphic layout of the airport. He stated he is not for or against any person at the airport. Paul read a letter the Board wrote to him dated April 14, 2006, in regard to their charges that he made a fraudulent change in the airport lease. He feels it is his right to present the following facts since the Board used the word fraudulent in their letter.

Paul stated he purchased a hangar from Mike Smith and Keith Evans (P-3 & P4) and later purchase a hangar from John Blahnik. (508 is the old P-3). In January 2004 he received a letter from Red in regard to non-compliance issues due to a private residence. Red also informed him of a non-aviation tenant in the hangar that he purchased from Blahnik and that the tenants were depositing debris at the airport. Red also sent another letter stating the airport can no 'longer be a good ol'boy facility'. But Red subsequently allowed other tenants to be in direct violation of his own rules. The minimum standards also address these issues.

The following fall, he submitted plans for #508 and he was told the plans would not work because they were on the building line. So he expanded the hangar and turned it with the purchase of space #5. But Red stated that area would be hangar ramp. Red had also assured him that if he built there, the area would be paved. On 2/28/05 he received a note from Dave Hedditch showing their concern about #5 being a FBO spot. Paul stated this would be for commercial and this is what he advised Red. Later he saw a sewer line being built through hangar space #5 and when he asked Red about the sewer line, Red told him he would have to pay to have the line moved. Paul stated they originally pushed

this building back to the west and the sewer line would be under the building, but the new proposal would not go back that far. The point Paul stated he is making is what was allowed to happen at the airport by Red.

In April 2005, he received a new lease for #508. He asked Red if he should file it. Red told him he could file it at any time. On March 15th, Steve Wolters asked him to sell #508. Steve asked if Paul would expand the lease before he purchased it and Paul indicated he would. Mark Fournier then asked about the space for a lease, and Paul advised him he was going to sell it to Steve. Mark indicated to Paul that Red stated he could have it. On April 8th, Paul gave him figures of the cost. After much debate, Red gave him the lease back and told him to do what he wanted with it. April 12th was the first time Red allowed #5 to be sold, which was disturbing because he was told he could not have it. Paul stated he was unhappy to say the least. On Friday he was told the lease was being held up, as there would be more money required and a letter was forthcoming. Paul then reviewed Steve Davidson's, Wayne Craw's and Mark Fournier's lease. Their leases show business use with no commercial. Paul stated these business leases have no limitations and were all recorded within the past two-three months. Paul stated there are violations of colors, residences and non-aviation uses on these other leases. If these deviations were approved, then the magnitude of these renders the rules to be a farce.

Paul further stated in regard to limitations, it depends upon what mood Red is in. Any failure to redo his lease with no limitation is discrimination and clear bias of airport rules. He felt this matter has gone far beyond the lease issue as Red has made it a personal matter. Paul stated he expects a letter of apology and asked the Board to designate someone else to work with him on the lease issue.

Paul stated Red lied and discriminated against him. Further, Red used his position to further his agenda. Red has bypassed the Airport Layout Plan, the Rules and Regulations etc. He stated Red utilized no impartial enforcement, and he feels this is to the point of being criminal. He stated this is exposing Ravalli County to law suits. He feels Red should be terminated immediately and the Commissioners should hold Red financially responsible. Paul did not feel Red should be given any sick or vacation leave.

James stated there are two issues Paul has raised. One is the lease issue. The other issue is a personnel complaint against Red. Any investigation must separate the allegations made by Paul. James stated in his opinion there is no lease on Hangar #508 and there was a misunderstanding of terms between the two parties. James suggested the Commissioners discuss the terms of a new lease and have the Airport Board review them.

Commissioner Thompson stated he was not aware of all of the issues and complaints Paul has brought forward today. While they voted to approve of the lease last Friday, he feels they need to review the terms making sure it complies with the airport regulations. In regard to the complaints about Red, he feels they need to review those complaints. Commissioner Thompson stated he would work with Paul if the Board concurred.

Paul stated he understands the lease is null and void and will work with the Commissioners on this lease. Commissioner Lund stated she did not appreciate Paul 'whiting' out the changes on the lease. Paul stated he 'whited' out some of the language 'because the terms were due him'.

Commissioner Chilcott gave Paul his check back for Hangar #508. The lease was torn up and not recorded.

Paul stated he is very frustrated with the confusion there. The airport rules and regulations need to be applied to everyone. Paul stated he will work with Commissioner Thompson but wants to be treated fairly. James stated the Commissioners are in charge of the airport so they have full discretion.

Paul stated he has recounted what has occurred to him. There are other issues that have occurred at the airport that he has not brought up. He also stated there is a lot of backstabbing and gossiping which Red creates. Commissioner Thompson stated any final decision at the airport is made by the Commissioners and he agrees that everyone is to be treated fairly with no favoritism.

Paul stated he has faith in the Commissioners but not in Red Caldwell. The Board concurred Paul will meet with Commissioner Thompson on lease #508. The Airport Board will make a review of the lease. In regard to personnel complaint against Red, the Board will discuss these issues with Red.